

# MEMORANDUM

*Department of Fish and Game*

# STATE OF ALASKA

TO: Jeff Ottesen  
Director of Program Development  
DOT/PF  
Juneau

THRU: Tim Viavant

FROM: David Stoller  
Angler Access Coordinator (Reg. III)  
Sport Fish Division  
Fairbanks

DATE: December 22, 2005

FILE: 05SFStipComments.doc

TELEPHONE NO: 459-7296

FAX NO: 456-2259

SUBJECT: 06-08 STIP Comments

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) would like to offer the following comments on the draft 2006 – 2008 Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

1. Birch Creek Wayside – 147 Mile Steese Highway : This project was in the 2001 – 2003 STIP as a cooperative project with ADF&G to provide a wayside and public access to Birch Creek for motorized boating. There has been substantial work completed on the project, including some preliminary planning and design, survey, re-platting, and appraisal. ADF&G has been attempting to complete the purchase of the land for the wayside since January of 2003. Because the land in question is a portion of a native allotment, there were several obstacles to be overcome. ADF&G believes that we are now close to finalizing the sale of the land and would then be ready to continue with the project. In reviewing the draft STIP we see that this project is no longer included. This project is a high priority for ADF&G, and we believe that this project should be included in the 2006 – 2008 STIP. Significant resources have been expended on this project to date, and ADF&G is committed to completing what has already been started. In addition, the project would correct the ongoing trespassing that is currently occurring on privately owned lands, and provide legal access to Birch Creek for the boating public.
2. Cummings Road Connector – Delta Jct. : ADF&G has significant interest in this project, if it goes all the way to the Tanana River (it is hard to tell from the STIP page). If it does indeed go to the river, we would like to see allowances made for a boat launching and parking area to be developed in conjunction with this project. ADF&G would be willing to partner with DOT/PF and possibly provide additional funding for this portion of the project.
3. Shaw Creek Bridge Replacement – Mile 287 Richardson Hwy. : ADF&G's interest in this project relates to the possibility of being able to provide public access to Shaw Creek and the Tanana River on the land downstream (south side) and on the Delta Jct. side of the bridge. The possibility of this would likely be determined by the width of the right of way

at this location or if DOT/PF has or acquires ownership / management of enough land to make this feasible. Assuming land issues could be worked out, ADF&G would be willing to partner with DOT/PF and seek additional funding to improve the access to the river at this location.

4. Yukon Crossing Intermodal Facility – Mile 57 Dalton Hwy. : ADF&G believes this is an important project that should receive some priority. This is one of only three boat launching sites on the road system to the Yukon River and is easily the one that receives the most use (in excess of 1500 launches and retrieves per season). The current facilities are inadequate for this amount of use. ADF&G believes the public deserves an improved facility that would better accommodate the current as well as projected future increased usage. ADF&G is willing to seek additional funding to help improve the boat launch and parking facility for this project if needed.
5. Tanana River Bridge #0505 – Mile 1303 Alaska Hwy. : This comment is just to reiterate our position that the current boat launch and parking area located just downstream of the existing bridge will need to be replaced with a facility that is equal to or better than the existing site when the new bridge is constructed. ADF&G believes the current facility is adequate for the usage at this site, therefore additional improvements are not warranted. The Right-Of-Way work for this project must replace the legal public access currently provided for by the ANCSA 17b site easement that currently exists at this site. This site is important to local users and allowances need to be made to insure that there is still a functional access site available both during and after construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 06 – 08 STIP. Any questions regarding these comments should be directed to David Stoller.